



Mother Mont and The Shire were the headline act at the DSU benefit coffee house.
All band members are in college except for DHS junior Mikayla Zukowski.

Photo by Thea Barrett and Ivy Horan

Community rallies around teen hurt in car accident

DSU winter coffee house turns into benefit

BY SUSANNA SHEEHAN
CLIPPER EDITOR

Duxbury's young people came together last Saturday to help a fellow teenager who had been injured in a severe car crash the day after Christmas.

After hearing of the onecar accident on Elm Street on December 26 involving 17-year old Caleb Keohan, the Duxbury Student Union decided to turn its January 2 coffee house into a benefit for the DHS senior.

DSU director Sue Bradford said that after learning of the severity of Keohan's injuries – two broken legs and a broken jaw, rib and pelvis – she felt "compelled" to figure out a way the student union community could help.

"I really wanted to look at how we could mobilize people to get behind it and the coffee house was a good fit," she said.

What happened next was out of the realm of what she imagined for possibilities.

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After Bradford contacted Duxbury Bay Maritime School director Chuck Leonard about finding a large room for the coffee house, he offered its beautiful waterfront function room for free.

"That was a game changer," Bradford said. "That meant we could have twice the size audience."

The word went out on social media and students organized 20 acts that ranged from soloists to duets to full-on heavy metal rock bands. They performed for three and a half hours. The college-student band Mother Mont and The Shire closed out the night. Then the Duxbury community did the rest.

"The town's young people really rallied," she said. "We packed that room. "It was a sellout crowd."



You've got a friend! Clay Nueger adjusts the microphone for Andrea Groll who made her



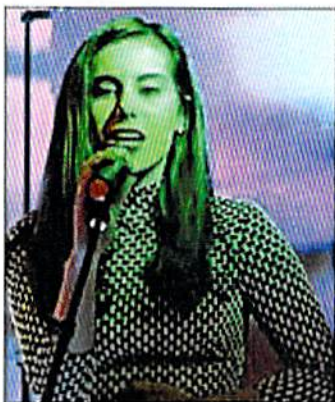
Wes Horton, lead singer of the band Divide The Sky and Caleb's long time friend takes a selfie with Caleb while he reads the many and well wishes from guests at the coffee house the night before. "I am overwhelmed so many people care about me. Thank you," said Caleb.

DSU Board president Allison Berry addressed the crowd during the evening with a message to all Duxbury youth: "This event was a great example of how Duxbury will rally to support one of its own, and Duxbury youth can be assured that no matter the tragedy, mistake or mishap, 'DSU has your back' as does the entire community."

"Out of this tragic event came many bright moments," said Bradford. "Classmates and old friends reconnected; peers and underclassmen were mobilized to show their support performing at the coffee house. Students – freshmen through college – and many parents enjoyed an uplifting evening of entertainment and shared lots of messages of encouragement for Caleb."

Almost \$2,000 was raised through ticket sales and donations from the coffee house, and all the proceeds will go to Keohan's recovery effort. Bradford said the boy is doing well after having surgeries on both his legs and on his jaw at a Boston hospital. Once he is out of the hospital in about a week, he will spend time at a rehab hospital. Bradford said he is determined to graduate with his class. "Caleb's goal is to walk again but also to walk graduation with his classmates," she said. "He will be sent the academic work by his teachers. He knows it is a long road ahead but he is up for the challenge.

"He is really driven," she added.



DHS senior Hannah Sheil, a newcomer to DSU's coffee house, sang a Lady GaGa mashup.



Sophomore Ellie Murphy belts out Tina Turner's "River High, Mountain Low" and Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind."



Divide The Sky raised the roof at DBMS. Band members (L to R): Thomas Clifford, Wes Horton and Matt Farias and drummer Christian Coomey.

Dalton and Dylan Letorney can surprise their audience singing all genres from "Crocodile Rock" to Maroon 5 and One Direction.



Photos by Thea Barrett and Ivy Horan